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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2004

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CPAS.../NID 91-217JX...



Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Tuesday, 17 September 1991



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CPAS NID 91-217JX

17 September 1991

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USSR: Situation Report

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**Kazakh President
Wants To Keep
Nuclear Arms**

On US television yesterday, republic Nazarbayev said he wants nuclear weapons based in Kazakhstan to remain there. On Sunday he said that he could not agree to Russia's having exclusive control of the union nuclear arsenal and that control of such weapons must be a joint responsibility of the republics, central institutions, and a unified military command. Kazakhstan hosts two SS-18 ICBM divisions and a base for the Bear H heavy bomber, as well as 11 storage sites for strategic and tactical nuclear weapons. []

Comment: Nazarbayev probably seeks to retain these weapons—under joint control—as a counterweight to any Russian assertion of military preeminence. The General Staff probably favors leaving at least the ICBM forces in Kazakhstan for now in order not to disrupt the structure and operations of strategic forces. []

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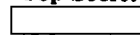
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